

Reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Stirton (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,200) and Lensing (U.S. Patent No. 6,383,824). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections.

Simply put, due to changes made to 35 U.S.C. § 103 in 1999, the patents to Stirton and Lensing are not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. § 103. More specifically, according to M.P.E.P. § 706.02(1)(1), "effective November 29, 1999, subject matter which was prior art under former 35 U.S.C. 103 via 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is now disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention if that subject matter and the claimed invention "were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person." The present application was filed on August 2, 2001, *i.e.*, after November 29, 1999. Furthermore, the present application and U.S. Patent No. 6,479,200 (Stirton) and U.S. Patent No. 2,638,284 (Lensing) were, at the time the present invention was made, owned by the same entity or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same entity, namely, Advanced Micro Devices. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the patents to Stirton and Lensing are not available as prior art in any obviousness determination.

Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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